

Date: May 4, 1994

BQC-94-035

To:	Hospitals	HOSP	<u>14</u>
	Nursing Homes	NH	<u>22</u>
	Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled	FDD	<u>16</u>
	End Stage Renal Dialysis Facilities	ESRD	<u>1</u>
	Home Health Agencies	HHA	<u>9</u>
	Personal Care Agencies	PCA	<u>1</u>
	Hospices	HSPCE	<u>9</u>
	Rural Health Clinics	RHC	<u>2</u>
	Ambulatory Surgery Centers	ASC	<u>4</u>
	Physical Therapists in Independent Practice	PT/IP	<u>3</u>
	Occupational Therapists in Inddept. Practice	OT/IP	<u>1</u>
	Outpatient Rehabilitation Agencies	OPRA	<u>2</u>

From: Judy Fryback, Director
Bureau of Quality Compliance

Subject: Guidelines for Water Advisories

In preparation for potential spring flooding, the Wisconsin Division of Health has developed the following guidelines for health care providers to be utilized when their normal water delivery service is interrupted or when flood waters threaten the safety and care provider setting. The enclosed guidelines should be shared and explained to all persons that utilize inpatient, outpatient and home or community-based health services, to assure health and safety of staff and patients during an emergency condition.

Evacuation

Providers are required to maintain updated emergency and evacuation procedures, as applicable to the type of services being offered. Evacuation and relocation procedures for inpatient and outpatient facilities should be coordinated with the local county emergency government agency.

Cryptosporidium "Boil Water Advisory"

These guidelines are to be used only when cryptosporidium is positively identified in the water supply. There are specific recommendations to be followed when a cryptosporidium "boil water advisory" is cancelled.

Other "Boil Water" Advisories

Guidelines for other "boil water advisories" are less involved and providers may resume normal water usage once they are notified that the advisory has been cancelled.

Other Water Issues

Also enclosed are fact sheets regarding excessive nitrates, lead and copper in the drinking water. These conditions are not a result of potential flooding, but may occur in both public and private water systems. Each fact sheet contains the telephone number of the District Offices of the Department of Natural Resources, to request further information.

Inpatient providers and home health agencies should monitor and report an increased incidence of gastrointestinal illness among

staff and patients/residents to their local public health agency.

Individuals at high risk of medical complications and hospitalizations due to gastrointestinal illness associated with contaminated water may include, but are not limited to, infants and frail elderly patients/residents and individuals who have HIV infection, end stage renal disease, and other conditions which lower the effectiveness of their immune system.

In most cases providers will be made aware of any water advisories or alerts through local television, radio, and newspaper reports. Local public health agencies and staff from the Bureau of Quality Compliance will also notify health care providers of the advisories. If you become aware of a situation and feel BQC should be alerted, or if you have questions, call Thomas Haupt at (608) 267-1445.

JF/TH/df 12500.nm

Enclosures

cc:

-BQC Staff	-Mark Bunge, BPH
-Office of Legal Counsel	-Renal Dialysis Network
-Ann Haney, DOH Admin.	-Commission on Geriatric Health
-Kevin Piper, BHCF Dir.	-WI Health Care Association
-HCFA, Region V	-WI Assn. of Medical Directors
-Illinois State Agency	-Admin., Division of Care and Treatment Facilities
-Ohio State Agency	-WI Assn. of Hospital SW and Discharge Planners
-Michigan State Agency	-Bd. on Aging & Long Term Care
-Indiana State Agency	-Bur. of Design Prof., DRL
-Minnesota State Agency	-Bureau of DD Services
-WI Coalition for Advocacy	-WI Hospital Association
-Serv. Employees Intn'l Union	-LTC BQC Memo Subscribers
-WI Counties Assn.	-Non-LTC BQC Memo Subscribers
-WI Assn. of Homes & Serv/Aging	
-WI Health Info. Mgmt. Assn.	

"BOIL WATER ADVISORY"

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public/private water system determined to be contaminated with bacteria, and not able to be chlorinated to a level of 0.5 PPM within 4 hours.

1. Use bottled or sterile water, or boil tap water for 5 minutes before:
 - a. Drinking
 - b. Cooking
 - c. Cleaning foods to be consumed raw
 - d. Making baby formula
 - e. Preparing or flushing tube feedings
 - f. Making juices or other beverages
 - g. Bathing infants
 - h. Bathing patients with open skin wounds
 - i. Irrigating open skin wounds, catheters, eyes
2. Dispose of ice cubes, juices, coffee and other beverages made from possible contaminated water source. Use bottled water, boiled tap water or water known to originate from a source outside of the "boil advisory" area for ice cubes, juices, and other beverages. Do not use beverage vending machines that utilize possibly contaminated water.
3. Do not brush teeth with unboiled tap water
4. Unboiled tap water is safe for:
 - a. Bathing/showering (except infants and persons with open skin wounds)
 - b. Washing hands, if no open areas are present
 - c. Washing dishes, if thoroughly dried before use
 - d. Automatic dishwashers that dry dishes
5. Dental and surgical instruments that utilize potentially contaminated water should not be used.
6. End stage renal dialysis facilities, and hospitals with dialysis units should:
 - a. Monitor the effectiveness of the reverse osmosis (RO) and/or deionized (DI) system once per patient shift instead of daily. This should include chloramine testing.
 - b. Consider sampling post RO and/or DI water for trace chemical analysis to assure compliance with Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) standards.

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM "BOIL WATER ADVISORY" RECOMMENDATIONS

Public/private water system determined or suspected to be contaminated by cryptosporidium.

1. Use bottled or sterile water, or water which has been heated to at least 113 degrees fahrenheit for 5 - 20 minutes and cooled before:
 - a. Drinking
 - b. Cleaning foods to be consumed raw
 - c. Making baby formula
 - d. Preparing or flushing tube feedings
 - e. Making juices or other beverages
 - f. Bathing infants
 - g. Bathing patients with open skin wounds
 - h. Irrigating open skin wounds, catheters, eyes
2. Dispose of ice cubes, juices and other beverages made from possible contaminated water source. Use bottled water, boiled tap water or water known to originate from a source outside of the "boil advisory" area for ice cubes, juices, and other beverages. Do not use beverage vending machines that utilize possibly contaminated water.
3. Do not brush teeth with unboiled tap water.
4. Unboiled tap water is safe for:
 - a. Bathing/showering (except infants and persons with open skin wounds)
 - b. Washing hands, if no open areas are present
 - c. Washing dishes, if thoroughly dried before use
 - d. Automatic dishwashers that utilize heat sanitation only
5. Dental and surgical instruments that utilize potentially contaminated water should not be used.
6. End stage renal dialysis facilities, and hospitals with dialysis units should:
 - a. Monitor the effectiveness of the reverse osmosis (RO) and/or deionized (DI) system once per patient shift instead of daily. This should include chloramine testing.
 - b. Consider sampling post RO and/or DI water for trace chemical analysis to assure compliance with association for the advancement of medical instrumentation (AAMI) standards

"UNSAFE WATER ALERT" RECOMMENDATIONS

Public/private water system determined to be contaminated by bacteria, and able to be chlorinated to a level of 0.5 PPM within 4 hours.

1. Dispose of ice cubes, juices and other beverages made from possible contaminated and highly chlorinated water source. Use bottled water, or boiled tap water for ice cubes, juices, and other beverages until the "unsafe water alert" is cancelled. Do not use beverage vending machines that utilize possibly contaminated and highly chlorinated water.
2. End stage renal dialysis facilities, and hospitals with dialysis units should:
 - a. Monitor the effectiveness of the reverse osmosis (RO) and/or deionized (DI) system once per patient shift instead of daily. This should include chloramine testing.

REMOVAL OF CRYPTOSPORIDIUM "BOIL WATER ADVISORY" RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Any water using fixture or piece of equipment should be re-started and flushed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. This may vary from fixture to fixture; there is no general rule that applies. Your facility engineer and/or the manufacturer should be consulted when you re-start the equipment.
2. Run cold water faucets for 1 (one) minute.
3. Run drinking fountains or "bubblers" for 1 (one) minute.
4. Hot water heaters set below 113 degrees Fahrenheit should be drained and refilled.
5. Run water softeners through a regeneration cycle.
6. Resume usual practices for treating persons with open skin wounds.